

### **REMARKS**

Claims 17, 18 and 20-27 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 17 and 24 were amended. Accordingly, claims 17, 18 and 20-27 remain at issue.

#### **I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims**

Claims 17, 18 and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pitroda (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,271). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 17 has been amended to clarify that the service request and service provider are automatically recorded in an IC card, where information recorded on the IC card cannot be modified. No new matter has been added by this amendment because the specification discloses this limitation at page 10, line 19 through page 11, line 2. Pitroda does not disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, claim 17, and claims 18 and 20-23 that depend from claim 17, are allowable over Pitroda. For reasons similar to those discussed regarding claim 17, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24-25 are also allowable over Pitroda. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

#### **II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitroda (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,271). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, Pitroda does not disclose or suggest automatically recording the service request and the service provider in an IC card, wherein information recorded on the IC card cannot be modified, as required by claim 24. Thus it would not have been obvious to one of


ordinary skill in the art to modify Pitroda as suggested by the Examiner to derive claims 26 and 27. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
Marina N. Saito  
Registration No. 42,121  
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. Box 061080  
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080  
(312) 876-8000

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